



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GEORGIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAIL THEFT CONSPIRACY

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Robert Larmie, age 36, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, pled guilty Monday in federal court in Anderson, to conspiracy to steal mail and create counterfeit checks, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. accepted the plea and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the presentence report which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on August 3, 2011, in Spartanburg County, local police officers attempted to make a traffic stop on a vehicle. As officers approached the vehicle and attempted to

make contact with the driver, the vehicle fled the area and a chase of the vehicle ensued. Speeds exceeded one-hundred (100) miles an hour during the chase. Officers saw a "stack or papers" thrown from the passenger window of the vehicle where Robert Larmie was sitting. The vehicle was eventually stopped and the occupants arrested. Following the chase route and where they had seen items thrown from the vehicle, officers found checks and other letters that had been stolen from the mail. The mail had been stolen from various locations in South Carolina and Georgia.

Officers also recovered a laptop computer that had been thrown out of the car. A forensic examination revealed versa check software and scanned-in copies of checks that had been stolen from the mail. The exam revealed that Larmie and others were altering the checks and printing them. When officers searched Larmie, they discovered a copy of a counterfeit check in the amount of \$126,000.00 in his pocket.

Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty Larmie can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for 5 years, plus a special assessment of \$100.

The case was investigated by agents of the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, United States Secret Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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